

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-06 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 INT-05 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-02 /063 W

----- 031409

R 131403Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4906

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 2885

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SW

SUBJECT: WHITE-COLLAR WORKERS REACH SETTLEMENT

REF: STOCKHOLM 2788

1. PRIVATE INDUSTRY WHITE-COLLAR BARGAINING CARTEL (PTK) SIGNED 2-YEAR AGREEMENT FOR 300,000 MEMBERS EARLY MORING OF JUNE 12. AVERAGE INCREASE WILL BE ABOUT 28.5 PERCENT OVER 2-YEAR PERIOD, WHICH IS SEVERAL PERCENTAGE POINTS HIGHER THAN INCREASES RECEIVED BY OTHER GROUPS. PACKAGE INCLUDES WAGE DEVELOPMENT GUARANTEE, A KEY PTK OBJECTIVE, WHICH IS DESIGNED TO KEEP WHITE-COLLAR REMUNERATION MORE OR LESS IN LINE WITH MANUAL WORKER WAGE TRENDS DUE TO WAGE DRIFT. A PTK SPOKESMAN SAID THIS NEW FEATURE MIGHT FACILITATE CLOSER BARGAINING COOPERATION IN FUTURE BETWEEN LO AND TCO UNIONS.

2. REACTION BY OTHER UNIONS TO PTK'S HIGHER WAGE GAINS WAS VARIED. A SENIOR LO OFFICIAL SAID HIS ORGANIZATION WOULD AWAIT OUTCOME OF PTK PLANT LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER DIFFERENTIAL WAS LARGE ENOUGH TO WARRANT REOPENING OF CENTRAL NEGOTIATIONS. SWEDISH SUPERVISORS' AND FOREMEN'S UNION (SALF), UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH BROKE AWAY FROM PTK AND REACHED INDEPENDENT AGREEMENT, WAS CLEARLY UNHAPPY. SALF PRESIDENT STATED THAT GAP WAS HIGHER THAN HIS UNION COULD TOLERATE AND IT WOULD PROBABLY REQUEST A REOPENING OF WAGE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. APART FROM MINERS WHO ARE STILL BARGAINING FOR LOWER RETIREMENT AGE, PTK SETTLEMENT COMPLETED THIS EASON'S HEAVY AND CONCENTRATED ROUND OF NATIONWIDE NEGOTIATIONS. SINCE ALL CONTRACTS ARE FOR 2-YEAR PERIOD, LABOR-MANAGEMENT SCENE SHOULD BE RELATIVELY QUIET UNTIL 1977, UNLESS, OF COURSE, LO AND SALF SHOULD DECIDE TO RENEGOTIATE. LATTER POSSIBILITY DOES NOT SEEM VERY LIKELY, HOWEVER, PARTICULARLY IN CASE OF LO WHICH WE ASSUME WAS SOUNDED OUT IN ADVANCE BY PTK AND EMPLOYERS FEDERATION (SAF) AS TO LIMITS OF ACCEPTABILITY.

4. UNIONS HAVE HARVESTED PROBABLY RECORD CROP OF WAGE INCREASES THIS YEAR, OUTSTRIPPING PRODUCTIVITY BY FAR, AND THESE ARE BOUND TO BE REFLECTED EVENTUALLY IN HIGHER PRICES OF SWEDISH GOODS.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

UNCLASSIFIED

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